

To the Selectmen of the Town of Boston
Gentlemen

We received your communication of the 10th of August last; with an enclosed copy of the proceedings of the highly respectable Town of Boston; on the subject of the Embargo — with a request for this Town to join with them, in petitioning to the President to suspend the Embargo, either wholly or partially, according to the Power vested in him, by the Congress of the United States.

We have duly, and deliberately, considered the late measures of government; and the operation of the Embargo. which are not only, & generally known; but universally felt, and we are fully of opinion that the measures of the Embargo, were not a wise and politic one nor calculated either for the interest or the honor of the Nation — For an Embargo on the Agricultural and commercial country like this; strikes a most fatal stroke to its sources, besides we conceive that it is not only oppressive in its operations, but an infringement on the rights and Liberties of our dear bought Freedom; neither do we believe that it was designed, to answer the end it were pretended, which were, to save our men and property from the capture of those beligerent Powers.

We should be happy in joining with so respectable a part of the community as the Town of Boston; in any measure we think likely to remove so great a national evil. — but we are and ever have been of opinion, that the Power vested in the President by the Congress of the United States, was on such conditions, that under the present existing National circumstances, that it would not have any effect on his Philosophical mind, in removing this oppressive and unconstitutional Embargo. — for this is the strong groans which has been their boast, and the measures which (they say) have become so Popular.

We are sensible that any Town or Body Politic, have a constitutional right, to Petition the Government for redress of Grievances sustained

but at the present critical, and alarming situation of our country, both of an external and internal nature. — We therefore deem it our duty to discern only to prudent measures, — as a general Petitioning to the President ~~to~~ manifest the great uneasiness of the People, and as we fear would have a tendency to rouse the prevailing uneasiness, to such a degree that the measures of Government might be resisted to arms. — and should the Embargo be removed by the force of the People, we fear that the remedy would be worse than the Disease.

We as citizens of the United States have a natural Regard for our country, and its constituted authorities, and are wishing to support with Patriotic Fidelity, the Laws enacted by our elective Government; therefore we patiently, and silently, endure many evils; before a murmur shall be heard from our Mouths.

This Town is small in number, consequently, would be considered of but little weight in the great National Scale. — besides this Town has ever been distinguished, for their Moderation in taking up Political matters; either for, or against Government; but as much distinguished for their uniform support, of Federal men and Federal measures, and we still remain firm in support of the Federal Cause; believing that this country owes much of its Wealth and Eminence, to the wise and virtuous Administration of Washington and Adams.

Gentlemen Please to accept of our best wishes for your Welfare; and the welfare of our common Country.

Southbor: Sept. 20th
1800

Thos. Taylor —

Timothy Bellows

Jeremiah Newton

Elijah Brigham

Willard Newton

Selectmen

of

Southborough



